tute a National Advisory Committee for patent information to look into issues relating to patents; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this respect and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Patent Information System (PIS) headquartered at Nagpur is being modernised with assistance from WIPO/UNDP. The Expert Missions under this project have recommended setting up of an Advisory Committee to advise the PIS on its services and opsrations. Government has not yet taken a decision on the recommendation.

Increased Prices of Raw Material Affecting Exports

3665. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that exporters, especially those manufacturing textiles-related products, handicrafts, leather, jute and light engineering goods are facing difficulty in executing export orders due to a sharp increase in the prices of raw materials;

(b) whether it is a fact that the closure of a large number of small-scale industries in various parts of the country had stopped the flow of raw materials to the exporters;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose immediate action to ractify the position in this regard ?

THE MINISTER Of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Exports to SouthAfrica

3666. SHRI IQBAL SINGH Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(b) whether Government have prepared an action plan to achieve an export target of Rs. 2000 crores to South Africa besides setting up joint ventures;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to explore the possibility of creating a nodal agency facilitating transhipment of Indian goods to Latin American countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is, however, expected that Indian exports to South Africa are likely to gain substantially though it is difficult to estimate the exact value at this stage.

(c) No, Sir.

New Delhi G-15 Summit

3667. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be plaesed to state :

(a) whether New Delhi Summit of G-15 opposed move for trade curbs;